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DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE HUNGARIAN
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL DEFENSE FEDERATION

[Comment: This report gives a full translation of the draft constitution of the new paramilitary organization, MOHSZ (Magyar Onkentes Honvedelmi Szovetseg, Hungarian Voluntary National Defense Federation), which was formed by a merger of the MRSZ (Magyar Repulo Szovetseg, Federation of Hungarian Fliers) and the MSZHSZ (Magyar Szabadsagharcos Szovetsege, Federation of Hungarian Fighters for Freedom). The constitution was published by the provisional presidium of the new organization and distributed as an inclosure in the March 1955 issue of Szabadsagharcos, official publication of the MSZHSZ.]

I. Name, Mission, and Duties of the Federation: The federation, formed by a merger of MRSZ and MSZHSZ, is hereby named the Hungarian Voluntary National Defense Federation. MOHSZ is a voluntary patriotic mass organization of the people, particularly the youth, of Hungary.

The mission of the federation is to cooperate in the strengthening of the army and prepare the mass of the people for the defense of the nation.

The principal duties of the federation are to instill in its members and the populace a love of country and party, unshakable faith in the USSR, hatred of enemies inside and outside the nation, and consciousness of the necessity of national defense; to expand and popularize mass national defense activities, prepare the youth for military service, draw active-duty soldiers into the work of the federation, and familiarize members and the populace with the military branches; to cultivate among the people the memory of our honored fighters for freedom and national traditions; to promote activities, particularly in the field of sports, which are beneficial to national defense; to instruct members and the populace in civil defense; and to provide political instruction to the masses, particularly to those about to enter military service.

To accomplish its tasks, the federation will organize lectures, meetings, and competitions in clubs, athletic groups, etc; newspapers, books, magazines, brochures, and films will also be distributed. Contacts should be maintained with similar organizations in the USSR and other People's Democracies, and outstanding individuals and organizations should be rewarded.

The federation will function under the supervision of the Hungarian Workers Party and in close cooperation with the DISZ (Dolgozo Ifjusag Szovetsege, Federation of Working Youth), the councils, the trade unions, military units, and social organizations.

The federation is a legal entity and will have its own flag, insignia, and seal, as approved by the National Committee (Orszagos Valasztmany) of the federation.

II. Membership: Any Hungarian citizen may be a member of the federation, if he is over 14 years old, is a loyal member of the People's Democracy, has participated with honor in the building of the socialist nation, agrees to abide by the constitution and decisions of the federation, and pays his dues regularly.

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Membership in the federation may be acquired only by individual written application. New members are selected by the boards of the primary units and confirmed by the assemblies.

The federation will teach its members voluntary self-discipline, and persuasion will be the chief disciplinary tool. Membership may be discontinued by withdrawal, expulsion, or death.

The obligations of members are to support and defend the authority of the state and protect federation and socialist property; to participate in all authorized federation activities and prescribed duties; to popularize and publicize the work of the federation and attract new members; to promote continually and systematically military and political knowledge and to guard the moral and political purity of the federation; to foster criticism and self-criticism and disclose criticism from below, regardless of the persons involved; and to maintain airfield, rifle range, competitive, and training discipline.

A member has the right to participate in the making of decisions and in debates touching upon the work of the federation and to criticize the performance of members and higher organs of the federation; to participate as a candidate or voter in elections for office in the federation (candidates for office must be at least 16 years old); to take part personally in any deliberation concerning his activities or conduct; to master military knowledge and sports in his chosen field; to join any federation club or use any federation equipment or facilities; to participate in the athletic competitions, exhibits, or shows sponsored by the federation; and to address petitions and requests to elected organs of the federation, up to and including the National Conference.

III. Educational [Disciplinary] Facilities: Organizational leaders may reward an individual who promotes active work in the interests of the federation, introduces innovations, or achieves notable success in other federation activities, by an oral or written expression of appreciation, by displaying the individual's name on the "honor board," by awarding prizes, or by recommending the individual for a meritorious award from the National Committee of the federation or from the government.

Disciplinary action must be initiated against members who violate the constitution of the federation. Extreme care should be exercised that an unbiased hearing be held after a close examination of the circumstances and weight of the violation.

Disciplinary actions may take the form of (1) warning, (2) reprimand, (3) public censure, (4) temporary loss of the right to engage in athletic training or competition, (5) temporary restriction from holding office, or (6) expulsion from the federation in serious cases. Disciplinary action is taken by the assembly of the primary unit concerned; action under (5) and (6) must be approved by one of the next higher organs of the federation. Disciplinary decisions may be appealed to all organs up to and including the National Conference of the federation.

IV. Organizational Structure: The federation is structured on the principle of democratic centralism, which means that all officials of the federation are elected by its members through their representatives, who are thereby accountable to the members for their actions; the federation must function under collective leadership in the work of its elected organs and under appropriate individual leadership in the work of the training branches; the lower organs of the federation are bound by the decisions of the higher organs; and the decisions require a simple voice majority for passage, with the minority being bound thereby.

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The federation is organized on a regional and shop basis. The lower regional organizations are subordinate to the Budapest, megye, jaras, municipal, district, and shop presidiums.

In sessions of the National Conference, conferences of delegates, or other elected organs at the regional level, the presence of two thirds of the members is required to form a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the organs may be reconvened repeatedly for 10 days to act upon the specific agenda items of the nonquorum session, and a quorum will be considered to exist regardless of the number of members present.

The organs of the federation are as follows: the National Conference (Országos Konferencia), the National Committee (Országos Valasztmany), the National Presidium (Országos Elnokseg), and the Budapest, megye, jaras, municipal, district, and shop (1) conferences of delegates (kuldottertekezesetek), (2) committees (valasztmanyok), and (3) presidiums (elnoksegek).

V. The National Conference: The National Conference is the supreme organ of the federation and is convened every 3 years by the National Committee. Special sessions of the conference may be summoned by the committee on its own initiative or in response to the desire of at least two thirds of the members of the federation.

The conference determines the tasks of the federation up to the date of the following session, elects the members and alternates of the National Committee by secret ballot, debates and passes judgment on the report of the National Committee, and may, by a simple voice majority, amend the constitution of the federation.

VI. The National Committee, Presidium, and Secretariat: Between sessions of the conference, the National Committee directs the work of and represents the federation in its dealings with the state and other mass organizations. In sessions of the committee, all regular members enjoy equal rights, and alternate members have advisory rights. The committee establishes the number of delegates to the conference on the basis of the membership of the clubs and organizations in the federation; chooses the 17 regular and five alternate members of the National Presidium from among its own members; and, between sessions of the conference, may in exceptional cases co-opt members for the committee, but not in excess of 15 percent of the committee's elected members.

Between sessions of the committee, the National Presidium will meet once a month to direct the work of the federation. The presidium shall choose from among its own members the chairman and vice-chairmen of the federation; appoint the central department heads and chief editor of the official newspaper; make decisions on matters pertaining to cadres falling within its jurisdiction; determine the number of departments and the duties of the federation; approve the budget and the manner of its implementation; and create a secretariat, composed of the chairman and vice-chairmen of the federation. When necessary, the presidium may suspend the presidium of any lower organ, disband lower organs, and appoint temporary presidiums for lower organs for 3-month periods.

The secretariat is responsible for the control and execution of decisions between meetings of the presidium; it makes decisions on matters pertaining to cadres falling within its jurisdiction, and carries out its work on the basis of the decisions and instructions of higher organs.

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VII. Budapest, Megye, Jaras, Municipal, District, and Shop Organs of the Federation: The supreme organs of the Budapest, megye, jaras, municipal, district, and shop organizations are the conferences of delegates, which are convened every 3 years by the committees of the respective organizations [see next paragraph]. The National Presidium apportions the number of delegates of the various conferences. Each conference of delegates elects the committee for its organization by secret ballot and debates the periodic reports of the committee.

The Budapest committee is composed of 45 regular and 19 alternate members; the megye committees, of 27-37 regular and 13-15 alternate members; and the jaras, municipal, district, and shop committees, of 15-25 regular and 5-9 alternate members.

The committee is in authority between sessions of the conference of delegates; it must meet at least once each quarter; it elects the presidium from among its own members and hears the reports of the presidium.

The presidium is in charge of the everyday activities of the clubs and organizations within its jurisdiction. The Budapest and megye presidiums are composed of 11-13 regular and 5 alternate members; and the jaras, municipal, district, and shop presidiums, of 7-11 regular and 3-5 alternate members. From among its own members, each presidium elects a chairman, who directs the work of the presidium and is responsible to it and the higher organs of the federation.

The presidium, the committee, and the conference of delegates are the superior organs of each group of 500 members or more which operates within their jurisdiction in the schools, shops, bureaus, producer cooperatives, or other establishments.

The elected organs of these organizations must be approved by an elected organ at the next higher level in the federation.

VIII. Primary Units (Alapszerkezetek): The functions of the primary units, which are the basis of the federation, are (1) to explain to the populace the goals and tasks of the federation, emphasize the importance of national defense, and draw the greatest possible number of members into the federation; (2) to organize lectures and disseminate literature on military and historical topics; (3) to form study groups and courses for instruction in marksmanship, motor [motorcycle?] racing, automobile repair, glider and motor-driven aircraft flying, parachuting, airplane modeling, meteorology, civil defense, horsemanship, skiing, and other subjects of a military and technical nature; (4) to organize competitions and military games and exercises and arrange for tours of military installations and exhibits; and (5) to draw activists, engineers, scientific workers, garrison officers, reserve officers, and noncommissioned officers into the activities of the primary units.

The federation will accomplish its mission spontaneously and of its own initiative under the guidance of the party, in close cooperation with the DISZ, the local councils, and the trade unions and other mass organizations, and with the assistance of enterprises, bureaus, educational institutions, producer cooperatives, etc.

Primary units may be formed in any shop, producer cooperative, MTS, state administrative office, educational establishment, city, town, bureau, or institution, provided there are at least five members in the unit. The formation or termination of any primary unit must be approved by the Budapest or appropriate megye presidium. In large factories and establishments where there are over 100 federation members, primary units may be formed in the various shops or departments. Particular effort must be made to promote primary units in the villages and outlying areas.

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The supreme organ of the primary unit is the assembly (taggyules). The presence of over half the members of the assembly is required to form a quorum. Each assembly must meet at least once a quarter and will elect a three- or five-member board, depending on the size of the unit's membership. The five-member board will consist of a chairman, training officer, disciplinary officer, supply officer, and clerk; the three-member board, of a chairman disciplinary officer, and supply officer.

The income of the primary units will consist of 40 percent of the membership dues, contributions from shops, bureaus, and social groups interested in the development of the federation, and voluntary contributions from the members themselves. The funds of the primary unit will be used to defray the costs of training and mass organizational work, in accordance with plans approved by the assembly.

IX. Clubs (Klubok): The clubs are to provide training and instruction in sports, flying, marksmanship, technical military matters, parachuting, horsemanship, motor-racing, etc. Club membership is acquired by individual application and on the recommendation of the primary unit of the applicant. All clubs are subordinate to the National Presidium and the parent regional presidiums.

The duties of the central clubs (kozponti klubok) are to provide expert training to members, work out new methods, and assist subsidiary clubs, under the supervision of a directorate approved by the National Presidium and in accordance with bylaws approved by the National Presidium.

X. Branches of the Federation: Two branches operate within the federation: (1) branch for fighters for freedom and independence, and (2) the voluntary branch for reserve officers. The duties of the first are to organize those persons who fought against fascism and to collect mementos of the revolution for use in the education of the workers, particularly the youth. The duties of the second branch are to draw reserve officers into the federation and provide them with the opportunity for further training.

The operation of the branches is governed by rules approved by the National Presidium.

XI. Finance and Property: The federation will be financed by initiation fees and membership dues, income from federation activities, and contributions from other organizations interested in the development of the federation. The federation will take over the property of the MRSZ and MSZHSZ, and make additional procurements.

New members must pay a 2-forint initiation fee at the time of entry. Membership dues are 3 forints per quarter for wage earners and 1.50 forints per month for dependents. Members of clubs will pay dues as required by club regulations.

XII. Miscellaneous: The constitution of the federation is binding on all members and organizations of the federation.

The federation may be disbanded either by decision of the National Conference of the federation or by decree of the Council of Ministers.

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